United Nations S/2013/789

Security Council

Distr.: General
2 January 2014
English
Original: English/French

Letter dated 31 December 2013 from the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1988 (2011) addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1988 (2011) containing an account of the Committee's activities from 1 January to 31 December 2013.

I should be grateful if the attached report could be brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council and issued as a document of the Council.

(*Signed*) Gary **Quinlan**
Chair
Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1988 (2011)

14-20040 (E) 090114 090114

Please recycle

Report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1988 (2011)

I. Introduction

1. The purpose of the present report is to provide a factual summary of the Committee's activities during the period from 1 January to 31 December 2013, in accordance with the transparency measures outlined by the President of the Security Council in his note of 29 March 1995 (S/1995/234).

II. Background information

2. For 2013, the Bureau of the Committee consisted of Ambassador Gary Quinlan (Australia) as Chair, with the delegations of Guatemala and the Russian Federation providing the two Vice-Chairs (see S/2013/2/Rev.1). The Committee was guided in the discharge of its mandate by Council resolutions 1988 (2011), resolution 2082 (2012) and other relevant resolutions. In accordance with paragraph 35 of resolution 2082 (2012), the Committee was supported by the New York-based Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team, established under paragraph 7 of resolution 1526 (2004).

III. Summary of the activities of the Committee

3. During 2013, the Committee continued to fulfil its mandate to manage sanctions (the assets freeze, the travel ban and the arms embargo) against individuals and entities designated as being associated with the Taliban and therefore as constituting a threat to the peace, stability and security of Afghanistan. The Committee held five informal consultations during the reporting period.

4. As at 31 December 2013, the Committee had approved 10 updates to the 1988 (2011) Sanctions List entries, thereby further improving the quality of the List and the narrative summaries.

5. In accordance with paragraph 30 of resolution 2082 (2012), the Committee reviewed its guidelines to align them with the new provisions of that resolution, including the sections on cooperation with the Government of Afghanistan, exemptions from the travel ban and reports submitted by Member States and other information supplied to the Committee. The revised version of the guidelines was approved by the Committee on 15 April 2013 and was made available on the Committee's website in the six official languages of the United Nations.

Cooperation with the Government of Afghanistan

6. Resolution 2082 (2012) makes specific provision for enhanced cooperation among the Committee, the Government of Afghanistan and the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA). This has been reflected in the work of the Committee during the reporting period.

7. On 12 March 2013, the Permanent Representative of Afghanistan, Zahir Tanin, participated in the Committee's informal consultations. The Government of Afghanistan, represented by the Chair of the High Peace Council, Salahuddin Rabbani, also provided a briefing to the Committee during its informal consultations on 17 December 2013. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan, Jan Kubiš, briefed the Committee at two of its informal consultations, on 21 June and 17 December 2013. The discussion during those meetings centred on the implementation and effectiveness of the sanctions measures contained in resolution 2082 (2012) in support of the Afghan-led peace process.

8. The Committee received and discussed a report from the Government of Afghanistan on the status of individuals who were reported to have reconciled with the Government and who had been delisted in 2012, as requested by the Security Council in paragraph 25 of its resolution 2082 (2012). The Monitoring Team worked closely with the Afghan authorities and UNAMA to assist in the submission of the present report.

Maintenance and dissemination of the 1988 (2011) Sanctions List

9. The Committee continued to ensure that the 1988 (2011) Sanctions List remained as up-to-date and accurate as possible, both to promote effective implementation of the sanctions measures and to ensure the sanctions are responsive to and supportive of the Afghan-led peace process.

10. In December 2013, pursuant to paragraphs 28 (a), (b) and (c) of resolution 2082 (2012), the Committee started another round of specialized reviews of list entries. Specifically, it conducted reviews of individuals whom the Government of Afghanistan considers to have reconciled, reviews of individuals and entities whose entries lack the identifiers necessary to ensure effective implementation of the measures and reviews of individuals who are reportedly deceased.

11. In the context of the reviews of individuals whom the Government considers to have reconciled, five individuals were under review by the Committee in 2013. Furthermore, the Committee was reviewing the names of 12 individuals on the List who are reportedly deceased. None of the listed entities are considered defunct.

12. The Committee was also reviewing seven entries lacking sufficient identifying information for the effective implementation of the sanctions measures. The Committee and the Monitoring Team continue to engage with Member States to gather information on the nationality of those individuals. All four entities on the List have sufficient identifiers to enable the effective implementation of the sanctions.

13. The Committee continued to improve the quality of the 1988 (2011) Sanctions List and the narrative summaries of the reasons for listing. During the reporting period, the Committee removed the names of four and added the names of two individuals from the List. No entities were added during that period. The Committee also amended 64 entries with additional or updated information. Those updates have reduced significantly the number of entries lacking sufficient identifiers for the effective implementation of the measures. As at 31 December 2013, the Committee had posted on its website narrative summaries of the reasons for the listing of all 130 individuals and four entities designated on the List.

14. To promote rapid dissemination and effective implementation, the Committee continued to issue a press release, a note verbale and an electronic notification to contact points in permanent missions in New York and in capitals following each update to the 1988 (2011) Sanctions List.

15. The Committee's secretariat also continued to notify the permanent missions of relevant countries regarding the listing or delisting of individuals or entities as soon as possible, or within three working days, in accordance with paragraphs 19 and 27 of resolution 2082 (2012). "Relevant countries" are Afghanistan, the countries where the individual or entity concerned is believed to be located and, in the case of individuals, the countries of which they are nationals. Such notifications remind relevant States that they are required, in accordance with their domestic laws and practices, to take all possible measures to notify or inform in a timely manner the individuals and entities concerned of the Committee's decision to add them to or remove them from the 1988 (2011) Sanctions List, as well as to provide them with relevant information.

Exemptions from the sanctions measures

16. During the reporting period, the Committee received no notifications of, or requests for, exemptions from either the travel ban (pursuant to paragraphs 1 (b) and 10 of resolution 2082 (2012)) or the assets freeze (pursuant to paragraphs 1 and 2 of resolution 1452 (2002), as amended by resolution 1735 (2006)).

Implementation of the sanctions measures

17. As at 31 December 2013, the Committee received a total of seven communications from two Member States informing the Committee about their implementation of the 2082 (2012) sanctions measures.

Outreach to Member States and regional organizations

18. The Committee has continued its cooperation with the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), including through the issuance of INTERPOL-United Nations Security Council Special Notices, which are designed to alert relevant national law enforcement authorities responsible for the implementation of sanctions of individuals or entities subject to Security Council sanctions measures. Special Notices have been created for all individuals for whom sufficient identifying information exists, as well as for all entities on the 1988 (2011) Sanctions List. The Notices are available from the INTERPOL website (www.interpol.int/fr/INTERPOL-expertise/Notices/Special-Notices).

19. The Committee continued to update its website (www.un.org/sc/committees/1988), which contains information and documentation related to the work of the Committee, including the most up-to-date version of the 1988 (2011) Sanctions List, and the narrative summaries of reasons for listing.

IV. Additional activities of the Monitoring Team

20. The Monitoring Team remained focused on its core business: supporting the Committee in undertaking its work by analysing the threat posed by the Taliban and its affiliates to peace, stability and security in Afghanistan, providing advice on listings, narrative summaries, reviews of listed entries and focusing on strengthening the impact of the sanctions regime.

21. During 2013, the Team visited Afghanistan three times, in May, September and December. In the course of those visits, which were conducted with the support of UNAMA and the Government of Afghanistan, the Team met with relevant national and international authorities in 11 provinces in order to discuss the implementation of the regime, as well as the overall political and security situation. In addition, the Team visited Tajikistan and Turkmenistan in July and Pakistan in November. As a result of the travel undertaken, the Team was able to obtain additional information on listed entries, which was provided to the Committee in the form of list amendments.

22. The Team has continued to work closely with UNAMA and with other United Nations offices, expert groups and special political missions, as well as with a range of regional and international organizations.

23. The Team participated in the thirty-eighth session of the Assembly of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), held from 24 September to 4 October 2013 in Montreal, Canada, in order to raise awareness among the ICAO leadership and national civil aviation authorities of the travel ban measure. It has also initiated closer cooperation with relevant officials of the European Union and the International Air Transport Association.

24. In December 2013, the Team attended the Middle East and North Africa Financial Action Task Force meeting in Doha to discuss, among other issues, the extent of money-laundering and the financing of terrorism associated with financial flows emanating from the production of and trafficking in drugs originating in Afghanistan at the global, regional and domestic levels.

25. The Team reached out numerous times to INTERPOL and continued to strengthen its active cooperation with the INTERPOL National Central Bureau in Afghanistan. The Team updated the Bureau on the issuance of Special Notices and cooperated with the Bureau on improving the quality of the information presented in the Notices.

26. As mandated under resolution 2082 (2012), the Team submitted a comprehensive report in September 2013 in which it provided the Committee with recommendations on how to improve the sanctions regime and strengthen the impact of the sanctions, with an evaluation of the threat from Taliban and associated groups and an update on the activities of the Team.

27. The Team has increased its work aimed at building links with academic and civil society experts in order to increase its understanding of the changing nature of the threat posed by the Taliban and associated individuals and entities, through dialogue with relevant scholars and academic bodies.

V. Future work of the Committee

28. The Committee remains committed to ensuring that the 1988 (2011) Sanctions List and the narrative summaries are as up-to-date and accurate as possible. With the support of the Monitoring Team, it continues to stand ready to assist States in implementing the sanctions measures.

29. The Committee looks forward to continuing its fruitful and close cooperation with the Government of Afghanistan and encourages the Government to engage actively with the Committee, including by submitting new listing and delisting requests.

30. The Committee remains well prepared to ensure that the sanctions measures contained in resolution 2082 (2012) contribute effectively to ongoing efforts to combat the insurgency and support the work of the Government to advance reconciliation in order to bring about peace, stability and security in Afghanistan.